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United States Environmental Protection Agency 0737

REGION VII  
726 MINNESOTA AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

March 4, 1986

*Alice Thorst*  
*WST/m/SPFD*

*Cherokee County*  
*KSD 98074/862*

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*3-4-86*

Mr. M. D. Jewett, Chief  
Regulatory Functions Branch  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Dear Mr. Jewett:

This letter addresses issues raised in your October 2, 1985, letter to Mr. A. H. Stallard of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) on KDOT project number 66-11 K-2587-01. You stated that the proposed bridge replacement project over a Spring River drainage area, 0.36 miles north of junction US-166 within the City of Baxter Springs, Kansas, would be authorized by a nationwide permit. However, letters from our Agency and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment were requested to ensure that special condition 33 CFR 330.5(b)(5) on toxics will be met.

The KDOT has advised us that concrete box culverts, crushed limestone, and material excavated from the stream are the only fills. We have information which indicates that this stream has been affected by mining activity and we would, therefore, anticipate that there may be heavy metal contamination of this bridge site. Due to our concerns about these contaminants, the following requirements and recommendations are made:

1. Measures must be taken during all phases of construction to minimize stream turbidity.
2. Any work which must occur in the water must be isolated from the rest of the stream by nonearthen cofferdams, or be done during periods of low flow. During Mr. Stallard's site visit, the flow was only a few inches deep. We assume this is the low flow condition of the stream.
3. Measures must be taken to stabilize disturbed soils so that there is no excess erosion during or after construction.
4. Crushed limestone must not come from rock formations which contain significant heavy metal deposits. The limestone must come from sources which are free from other pollutants as well.
5. The KDOT must check with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to ensure compliance with applicable regulations for air quality protection (including, but not limited to, fugitive dust control). We recommend, as a matter of good construction



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SUPERFUND RECORDS

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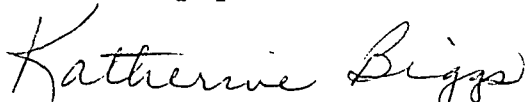
practice that dust be minimized during all phases of construction and that dust from all disturbed areas be minimized after project completion. We especially recommend that dust from material excavated from within the top, high banks of the stream be minimized during excavation, storage, and backfilling, due to probable heavy metal contamination. However, soils above this elevation may also contain heavy metals.

6. It was difficult for us to determine exactly where material within the top, high banks of the stream would be excavated and then redeposited because we had no drawings to go by. Mr. Stallard advised us that all excavated material would be used as backfill, and, therefore, no need to dispose of excess material offsite. He also advised us that material excavated from within the top, high banks of the channel will be placed as backfill behind wing walls, and that pavement would cover part of the excavated material fill. Our understanding is that the excavated material will not be completely covered by the pavement, and that not all excavated material will be placed behind the wing walls. In order to be consistent with the previous KDOT permit (No. 2321) for a bridge replacement project at Riverton, Kansas, and with our October 16, 1985, letter to you on another bridge project over the Spring River, we require that the excavated material be covered and placed in such a manner that it will not come into contact with surface or groundwater. This includes surface water from the stream, from runoff, or from rain. Covering the material will also serve to prevent human or animal contact with the excavated material. Only excavated material placed below the normal water elevation of the stream does not have to be covered (See Figure 1.) We suggest that earthen material above the top, high bank in the bridge and road right-of-way be used to cover material excavated from the stream.

7. We recommend that measures be taken to limit human or animal exposure to material excavated from within the top, high banks of the stream during storage. You may wish to cover the material with a tarp to prevent such activities as children or pets from playing on the pile.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Susan Ray of my staff at 913-236-2823.

Sincerely yours,



B. Katherine Biggs, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch

Enclosure

cc: KDHE  
KFGC  
FWS  
KDOT (Stallard)

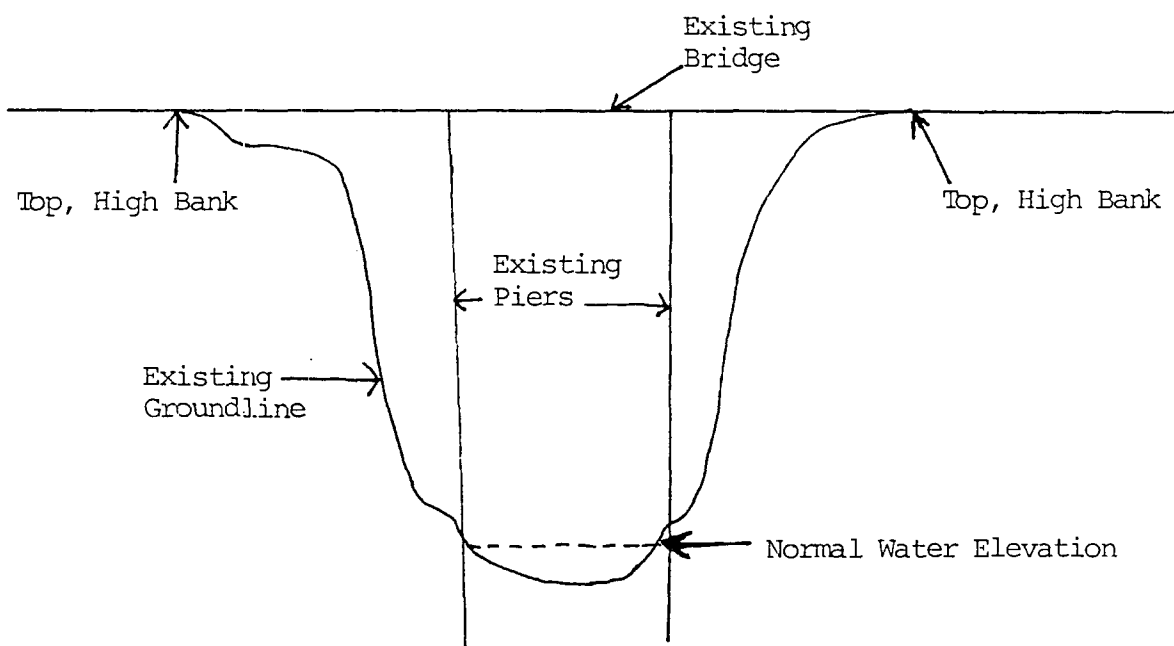


Figure 1. Hypothetical Stream Cross-Section  
(No Scale)